

sufficient for the formation of antibody/antigen complexes; and

2) at least one antibody to HCV or portion thereof coated on said solid phase, to which said at least one HCV antigen or portion thereof is also coated, for a time and under conditions sufficient for the formation of antigen/antibody complexes; and

Revised

(b) detecting presence of said antibody/antigen complexes, presence of said antibody/antigen complexes indicating presence of said at least one HCV antibody in said test sample and detecting presence of said antigen/antibody complexes, presence of said antigen/antibody complexes indicating presence of said at least one HCV antigen in said test sample.

8. (twice amended) A method for simultaneously detecting the presence of at least one HCV antigen and at least one HCV antibody in a test sample comprising the steps of:

Revised

(a) contacting said test sample with: 1) at least one HCV antigen or portion thereof coated on a solid phase, for a time and under conditions sufficient for the formation of antibody/antigen complexes and 2) at least one HCV antibody or portion thereof coated on said solid phase, for a time and under conditions sufficient for the formation of antigen/antibody complexes;

(b) adding a conjugate to the resulting antibody/antigen complexes of (a) (1) for a time and under conditions sufficient to allow said conjugate to bind to

the bound antibody in (a) (1), wherein said conjugate comprises a second antibody attached to a chemiluminescent compound capable of generating a detectable signal; and simultaneously adding a second conjugate to the resulting antigen/antibody complexes of (a) (2) for a time and under conditions sufficient to allow said conjugate to bind to the bound antigen in (a) (2), wherein said conjugate comprises a third antibody attached to said chemiluminescent compound capable of generating a detectable signal; and

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(c) detecting a single generated signal, presence of said signal indicating presence of said at least one HCV antigen, at least one HCV antibody, or both, in said test sample.

14. (twice amended) The kit of claim 13 further comprising at least one conjugate comprising a signal-generating compound attached to an antibody.

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